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70. (amended) A filter face mask that comprises:
- (a) a mask body adapted to fit over a nose and mouth of a wearer; and
- (b) an exhalation valve mounted to the mask body, the exhalation valve comprising a flexible flap, a valve seat, and a valve cover, the valve seat comprising one or more inlet ports, which one or more ports are surrounded by a seal surface, the valve cover comprising one or more outlet ports and being joined to the valve seat, the flexible flap being mounted to the valve seat and having a stationary portion and a free portion and a peripheral edge that includes stationary and free segments, the stationary segment of the flexible flap's peripheral edge being associated with the stationary portion of the flexible flap so as to remain stationary during an exhalation, and the free segment of the flexible flap's peripheral edge being associated with the free portion of the flexible flap so as to be movable during an exhalation, the flexible flap having a transverse curvature that is imparted to the flexible flap by the mounting of the flexible flap at the stationary portion, the mounting of the flexible flap at the stationary portion biasing the free portion of the flexible flap toward the seal surface under neutral conditions while also allowing the free portion of the flexible flap to be lifted from the seal surface during an exhalation.

Kindly add claims 79-85 to this application:

79. The filter face mask of claim 70, wherein the exhalation valve is positioned on the mask body and the flexible flap is positioned on the valve seat such that the free portion of the flap resides below the stationary portion when the mask is worn in its normal upright position over the nose and mouth of the wearer.

80. The filter face mask of claim 79, wherein the flexible flap has no more than one free portion and no more than one stationary portion.

81. The filter face mask of claim 70, wherein the flexible flap is mounted to the valve seat off-center relative to the flap.

82. The filter face mask of claim 81, wherein the flexible flap is mounted closer to a root end portion of the seal surface.

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83. The filter face mask of claim 70, wherein the transverse curvature constitutes an arching of the flap in a dimension transverse to a longitudinal dimension of the flap.

84. The filter face mask of claim 83, wherein the flexible flap also has a curvature in the longitudinal dimension, which curvature is imparted to a central section of the flap.

85. The filter face mask of claim 84, wherein the transverse curvature of the flap decreases in the longitudinal dimension moving from a point where the flap is mounted to the valve seat towards the free segment of the flap's peripheral edge.